Pollution Control Devices in Cement Factories in Assam

1422. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Private and Public Sector cement factories established in Assam so far, district-wise;

(b) the total number of Cement factories functioning at present, district-wise;

(c) whether proper pollution control devices are installed in all Cement factories, fulfilling the technical terms and conditions for a factory;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government against the concerned cement factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, there are two cement factories established and functioning at present in Assam, viz. (1) Bokajan Cement Factory, Bokajan of Cement Corporation of India and (2) M/s Vinay Cement Ltd., NC Hills. Umrangshu.

(c) and (d) Pollution control facilities such as Bag filters, Electrostatic Precipitators (ESP), Wet sorubbers etc. have been provided in the two cement plants.

(e) Does not arise.

Reconstitution of Central Pollution Control Board

1423. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Pollution Control Board is being reconstituted; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board had been constituted as per the provisions of section 3(2) of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. As per section 5 of the above Act, a member of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of his/her nomination provided that a member shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his/her term, continue to hold office until his/her successor enters upon his/her office. The Central Board was last constituted on 1.2.1995 and the term of the Board has expired on 31.1.1998.

Encroachment of Forest Areas for Setting up Tourist Resorts

1424. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large forest areas have been denuded or encroached upon for setting up tourist resorts and tourist sports games sports in different States;

(b) if so, the total forest areas so encroached upon in differenet States and how much of it has been encroached upon during the last five years, including the current year; and

(c) the steps taken to conserve, protect or restore the forest land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) There is no information with the Government of India that large forest areas have been denuded or encorached upon for setting up tourist re-sorts and tourist sports and games spots in different States.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Major steps being taken by the Government for conservation and protection of forests are as under:

1. Afforestation programmes are being undertaken.

2. Guidelines have been issued to involve village communities in portection and regeneration of degraded forests through Joint Forest Management.

3. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.

4. A centrally sponsored scheme "Modern Forest Fire control Methods" is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.

5. Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants and their habitat are being implemented.

6. A network of 447 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 84 National parks covering 1,50,000 sq. kms. of forests has been set for conservation of wild flora and fauna.

Allotment of Forest Land to the Rural People

1425. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allotted forest land to the people in rural areas so that they get self-employment by planting fruits, trees and other crops; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of land allotted during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 in the states, particularly in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Rules and Guidelines, for allotment of any forest land to people for planting fruits trees and other crops, prior approval of the Central Government is required to be obtained under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The concerned State Governments are required to send a formal proposal in the format prescribed under Forest (conservation) Rules, 1981 in this regard. So far no such approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been accorded for allotment of forest land people for self-employment by planting of fruit trees and other crops.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions in India

1426. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has been critised in the recent UNDP report as being one of the nations with the highest emission of carbon dioxide and that the unchecked rate fo emission is likely to be the world's top pollutor in the years to come;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government to make the environmental pollution programme in the country more effective to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI ' BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Human Development Report brought out by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1998 mainly examines the perspective of human development in the light of the present and projected future consumption patterns and their attendant effects on various socio-economic sectors, countrywise as well as globally. The report embodies that the fifth of the world's people in the highest-income countries account for 53% of carbon dioxide emissions, the poorest fifth for 3% and that Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico are among the developing countries with the highest emissions. The report also says that the annual emissions in developing countries are projected to more than double, though from